

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS' COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION
AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS OPENS IN ADDIS ABABA

1. A PREPARATORY MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS OPENED IN ADDIS ABABA AUGUST 26 TO DEVELOP POSITIONS FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP AT THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR MEXICO CITY SEPTEMBER 13-21. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, THE MEXICO CITY MEETING WILL BE A FOLLOW-UP TO UNCTAD IV HELD IN NAIROBI IN MAY. THE FIVE-DAY EXPERTS MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA IS BEING JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN UNITY. THE PROPOSALS DEVELOPED BY THE EXPERTS' COMMITTEE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AN OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN ADDIS ABABA SEPTEMBER 1-4 WHICH WILL FINALIZE THE AFRICAN POSITIONS. ISSUES SUCH AS COMMODITIES, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND NATURAL RESOURCES WILL BE DEALT WITH THE DEVELOP UNIFIED AFRICAN POSITIONS FOR THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE.

2. THE OAU HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING OF AFRICAN EXPERTS WHICH SAYS THAT THE AFRICAN

APPROACH WILL, IN GENERAL, INSIST ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
A. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST HAVE AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN
THE MAKING OF DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THE INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMY; B) THEY MUST HAVE CONTROL NOT ONLY OVER THEIR OWN
NATURAL RESOURCES BUT ALSO OVER HOW THOSE RESOURCES ARE
EXPLOITED AND FOR WHOSE BENEFIT; C) THEY MUST PLAY A
PART IN DETERMINING THE PRICES OF THEIR PRODUCTS WHICH ARE
SOLD ON WORLD MARKETS AND THE PRICES THEY PAY FOR IMPORTED
GOODS; AND D) THEY MUST HAVE AN EFFECTIVE SAY ON THE SORT
OF MONETARY SYSTEM WHICH IS TO SERVICE INTERNATIONAL TRADE
AND HOW IT IS OPERATED.

3. THE OAU STATEMENT CONTINUED "THESE POINTS EXPLAIN WHY THE
OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS 27TH ORDINARY SESSION IN
MAURITIUS EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN AT THE SYSTEMATIC RE-
JECTION BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE LEGITIMATE DEMANDS
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO ALLEVIATE
THE INJUSTICE AND IMBALANCE IN THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND WHY THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED ONCE AGAIN
THE NEED FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO PURSUE THE OBJECTIVES OF SELF-
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER."

4. THE EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE EXPERTS' PRE-
PARATORY MEETING AND THE SUBSEQUENT MINISTERIAL SESSION AS
DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE.

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